

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Rhynchaenus testaceus (Müller) and *Anthonomus rufus* Gyll. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Cornwall.—On recently sorting through some Coleoptera captured in Cornwall during the 1970s I discovered a specimen of *R. testaceus* that had been beaten from a young alder alongside the River Fal on 12.viii.1978 near Ruan Lanihorne, East Cornwall (VC2), grid ref. SW887422. I have been unable to trace any previous records for the county, indeed there appear to have been very few recent (post-1970) records for the whole of Great Britain: Collier (1989) reports its discovery in an alder plantation alongside the Little Ouse River, Norfolk in 1987 and informs me (*in litt.*) that he has subsequently recorded it in the Ministry of Defence, Stanford Training Area, Norfolk, where it was not uncommon in another small alder plantation during 1988; Morris (1993) provides a recent record from Holme Fen, Huntingdonshire, and Hyman & Parsons (1992), who assign *R. testaceus* to Red Data Book (vulnerable) status, also list the recent Norfolk and Huntingdonshire records.

Five small, widely spaced alders were present on the flood plain of the River Fal when I revisited the Cornish site on 15.iv.1995—much as I recall the site from 1978. All were beaten for *R. testaceus* without success, although it may have been too early in the year for the adult weevil since most of the trees were still in bud and only a few leaves were just beginning to open on each tree. Small numbers of adult *Galerucella lineola* (F.) were, however, present. Further south and east along the roadside towards Ruan Lanihorne village, more alders, both large and small, were beaten without finding *R. testaceus*, though again adults of *G. lineola* were present on all the trees. K. N. A. Alexander visited the area in early May 1995 but also failed to locate *R. testaceus*.

During my return visit on 15.iv.1995 to search for *R. testaceus* another scarce weevil, *Anthonomus rufus*, was discovered when more than a dozen examples were beaten from blackthorn bushes adjacent to the bridge at grid ref. SW887421. Although *A. rufus* has previously been recorded in West Cornwall (VC1), where it does appear to be very localized; this may represent the first record of this species for East Cornwall (VC2). Among previous records for West Cornwall are: Porthcurno near Penzance, and Grochall on the Lizard in 1974 (Morris, 1976), on both occasions by beating blackthorn prior to flowering, and near Chyvarloe, grid ref. SW647237 on 3.iv.1983 when I captured two examples, also from blackthorn bushes in bud. It may be significant that the Ruan Lanihorne examples were also beaten from blackthorn mainly in bud—adjacent bushes in full bloom failed to yield any specimens.

I thank M. Collier for allowing me to quote his unpublished observation of *R. testaceus* and for a specimen of this species which confirmed the identity of the Cornish example, and Prof. M. G. Morris for alerting me to relevant literature.—A. P. FOSTER, 61 Pittsfield, Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6AW.

REFERENCES

- Collier, M. 1989. *Rhynchaenus testaceus* Müller (Col., Curculionidae) in Norfolk. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **125**: 167.
- Hyman, P. S. & Parson, M. S. 1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain. Part 1.* U.K. Nature Conservation No. 3. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
- Morris, M. G. 1976. The British species of *Anthonomus* Germar (Col., Curculionidae). *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **112**: 19–40.
- Morris, M. G. 1993. A review of the British species of Rhynchaeninae (Col., Curculionidae). *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **129**: 177–195.